

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 1-16, 18-20 and Claim 21 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

An Abstract has been inserted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Office Action while the claims have been amended to eliminate the objection and formal rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, raised in paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action. In particular, the amendment to independent Claim 1 and new Claim 21 find clear support throughout the present application and drawings.

Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the prior art rejection of the claims. More particularly, all Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,950,735 to Godbersen in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. However, it is respectfully submitted all pending claims are patentable over this applied art, for the following reasons (reference will be made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

The present invention improves rapid attachment or coupling of parts 2 and 3-5 under gravity and which ensures these coupled parts 2 and 3-5 remain attached to one another in comparatively simple manner. These advantages are explicitly attained by the present invention as recited, e.g., in independent Claim 1 and which is directed to a device for attaching a first instrument or tool part 3-5 to a second part 2 in the form of a beam or on a working machine, and comprising first 17 and second 7 engagement means

respectively fixed to one of the first 3-5 and second 2 parts. The first 17 and second 7 engagement means are structured and arranged on the respective parts 2-5 to be driven into engagement with each other such that the parts 2-5 are thereby held attached to each other under the force of gravity.

The first engagement means 17 include a male engagement member having external surfaces 14, 15 converging towards each other, while the second engagement means 7 include a female member having internal surfaces 8, 11 converging towards each other in a corresponding manner to the external surfaces 14, 15 of the first engagement means 17, to thereby receive and hold the first engagement means 17 in the second engagement means 7 under the effect of gravitational force of the first part 3-5 upon the second part 2, to thereby push the external converging surfaces 14,15 substantially in the direction of convergence against the internal converging surfaces 8, 11 and into fixed position in which the respective externally 14, 15 and internally 8, 11 converging surfaces fit tightly together.

More specifically, an arrangement is provided to fixedly lock the second part 2 to the first part 3-5 and including

a recess 19 in a surface 8 of one 3-5 of the parts 2-5,

a wedge element 20 movably arranged on the other 2 of the parts 2-5,

means 25 for inserting the wedge element 20 in the recess 19 such that surfaces of the wedge element 20 are pressed against walls of the recess 19 and lock the wedge element 20 non-movably in the recess 19, and

resilient means 24 arranged to only act on the wedge element 20 to press the wedge element 20 into the recess 19 during biasing of the resilient means 24 by the inserting means 25 in locked position, and not act upon the wedge element 20 in the absence of such biasing by the inserting means 25, so the wedge element 20 remains retracted.

The features of the presently claimed invention together with the accompanying advantages attained thereby, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Godbersen, for the following reasons.


In Godbersen, spring 94 automatically biases plunger 76 to extended position shown in Fig. 10 and which must be retracted against biasing of the spring 94 by turning lever arm 92 pinned to a rod 78 connected to the plunger 76 as shown in Figs. 16 and 17 (column 5, lines 35-59), unlike the present invention where wedge 20 is normally positioned in retracted position shown, e.g., in Fig. 6 and spring 24 must be actively compressed by toggle joint 22 to maintain wedge 20 in extended position as shown, e.g., in Fig. 7 of the present application. Attention is respectfully called, e.g., to Claim 21 added herein, in this regard.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further at this time.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions. A petition for an automatic two month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R §1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate, together with the requisite petition fee.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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